Open Data Business Model Transition, Sustainability and Growth
A Work in Progress

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Ordnance Survey Ireland

- Founded in 1824 to enable an **equitable local taxation system**.
- State Body since 2002, under the **OSi Act 2001**
- Mandate: “**To provide a national mapping service in the State... creating and maintaining the definitive national mapping and related geographic records**”
- Approx. 230 staff: HQ Phoenix Park (150), 6 regional offices (80)
- In the process of merging with the Valuation Office and the Property Registration Authority to form Tailte Éireann
As a country, Ireland is good at Open Data

› Ireland has been a trend-setter for 6 years in a row.

› Key points to note:
  • A top-down (Government led) approach is used for all data initiatives (including Open Data).
  • Open Data impacts are measured
  • Open Data portal is strong.

As a country, Ireland is good at Open Data

› Ordnance Survey Ireland is in the top 8 contributors to data.gov.ie

› OSi Covid services were the most consumed services in 2021 (> 150m views in 2021).

› Benefits and positive nature of use clear for all to see.
A lot done, more to do!

Ordnance Survey Journey:

- **Transition Phase**
  - 2013-2015

- **Sustainability Phase**
  - 2016 - 2021

- **Growth Phase**
  - 2022 onwards
Transition: where we started

› OSi is governed by the **OSI Act 2001**.

› It states that OSi shall ensure that revenues, including moneys provided by Government, are not less than sufficient to meet all charges, generate a reasonable proportion of capital needs, and remunerate its capital, pay interest on and repay borrowings.

› With OSi operational costs at approx. €24M p.a. and a Government Grant at approx. €5m p.a. - OSi charged for its products and services (€19m p.a.).
Transition: changing the conversation with Government

- We changed the narrative by focusing on benefits of re-use:
- In 2012 OSi commissioned an **Economic Value Study** of the Geospatial Information Industry in Ireland. **€82M** savings in Public Sector.
- In 2016 OSi launched its first **GeoHive.ie** portal (its SDI).
- In 2016 OSi negotiated a 10 year **National Mapping Agreement** with Government (approx. €10M p.a.) to provide consistent access to OSI data and services across the Academic / Public Service.
Sustainability: building key relationships

› OSI details and reports on all national interest activities and Open Data activities via its Service Level Agreement with its parent department.

› OSI is strongly aligned with the delivery of key Government policies e.g.:

• Public Service Data Strategy 19-23
• Data Sharing & Governance Act 19
• Housing for All Action Plan 21
• Project Ireland 2040
Sustainability: delivering in national interest

Opening up retail business after lockdowns
Sustainability: delivering in national interest

Launching new Local Property Tax in November 2021
Sustainability: delivering in national interest

Social Service Planning & Design
Sustainability: delivering in national interest

Transport Network re-design for new Bus Connects initiative
Growth: what can we expect for the future

What we learnt from Covid:
• Geospatial data and apps have played a key role in revealing insights, patterns and trends.
• Collaboration is key – with public/private and end users. Act on the feedback.
• The race to real time is complex: the data we use is from the past, the problems we are solving are in the future.
• A single source of truth is essential: not having to debate the data allows more time to form questions & debate the policy.

What we have learnt from other leaders in Ireland:
• Open by design!
• Push beats Pull when it comes to increasing data consumption
  • CSO saw 20 x increase in open data consumption
• Interactive & Visual content beats Static content for increasing users engagement, share-ability (make it consumable).

Growth: what can we expect for the future

What we are planning for:

- **Service provision**: both projects and people.
- We’re facing a **technology treadmill** to meet new & different demands e.g. there will be no downtime!
- Data **quality** issues will come to the fore.
- **Currency** requirements will important.
- Users will decide what our “**products**” are. We’ll be too busy focused on the delivery of core data and services.
- There’s untapped value is acting as a ‘public interest’ **data broker** for geospatial data (base registers).
Thank you